

Smithsonian Institution.
PROFESSOR RODGERS' THIRD LECTURE ON THE ATMOSPHERE.

After recapitulating the principal topics embraced in his last lecture, Professor Rodgers said his purpose in the first experiment he should offer, would be to exhibit the solvent powers and agencies of water, when combined with carbonic acid gas, which time did not permit on a former evening; and he then called the attention of his audience, to a glass vessel filled with water, into which had been introduced powdered limestone, giving it quite milky appearance; and having brought carbonic acid gas into contact with the liquid, after a few moments the latter became perfectly limpid; the gas having dissolved the particles of limestone. With reference to the source whence the atmosphere derives this supply of carbonic acid gas, he described it as escaping from springs, and as being generated by volcanoes—particularly where there had been a discharge of lava. During this process, a large amount of steam escapes, mixed with gas; when carbonic acid gas is afterwards found in great quantity in the cup of the volcano, and near its edges, and also on the declivity of the mountain. It is found in all thermal springs, and in a majority of cold springs that are remarkable for mineral qualities in which it exists. Professor Rodgers next considered the effects that are produced by quantities of carbonic acid gas uniting with atmospheric air. At his last lecture, he had shown the power that is exercised by such quantities of carbonic acid gas upon organic structures which we see in regions of calcarous rocks. But this is not all; it disintegrates granite mountains, the hardness of which cannot long resist its action. This subject, he said, had been made a matter of special investigation by himself and his brother; and they had found no description of rock that will not yield to water when impregnated with a small portion of carbonic acid, by which mountains are carried off and leveled with the plain. Hence the great changes that have occurred, and are continually occurring, in the physical structure of the globe. He then said he proposed to show water may be formed in the combustion of hydrogen in atmospheric air. To effect this, he introduced a stream of hydrogen gas into a glass globe filled with atmospheric air, when it immediately ignited. The hydrogen had combined with the oxygen in the air, and in the act of combustion, had formed water, which accumulated in the form of vapor, which he held over the flame of the alcohol lamp. The water was then collected, and it was found to contain a number of the most noted alchemists and philosophers in this country—was not an addition. With them, saur for the globe was not also saur for the gander. They did not attest to the law as laid down by that great jurist of human nature, Chaucer, with regard to which in his opinion is always the inseparable accompaniment of "a humbug tongue." But the lady's logic pleased him, and he thought the actors in general, or his wife any worse or any better than the rest of most actors. Without any distinct act or approach to an act of adultery proved against Forrest, the jury came to the sapient conclusion that he had committed adultery because he had been occasion ally seen to visit a house of equivocal reputation. But the same jury, with the keenest penetration between tweedledum and tweedledee, came with equal doggerel promptitude to the conclusion that he had not committed adultery, because he had smoked segars at various o'clock, however, treasured up fifty love letters, and sat up many hours with his dozen of the most noted alchemists and philosophers in this country—was not an addition. The friends of the family are respectfully invited to attend his funeral, on Saturday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, at his residence, No. 127 Broad Street, in the 50th year of his age.

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